

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 067331
ORIGIN EA-12

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TAGS: PGOV, PEPR, KS, US

SUBJECT: REPORT ON HEARINGS OF FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE,
MORNING SEMINAR, MARCH 15, 1978

REFS: (A) STATE 066881, (B) STATE 066880.

1. THE FIRST DAY, OF THE SCHEDULED FOUR-DAY HEARINGS,
BEGAN WITH OPENING STATEMENT BY SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
FRASER (TEXT REPORTED REF A) WHICH OUTLINED THRUST OF
SUBCOMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION OF KOREAN-AMERICAN RE-
LATIONS. REP. DERWINSKI COMMENTED THAT STATEMENT DREW
CONCLUSIONS AND HE SUGGESTED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE SHOULD
AWAIT THE EXAMINATION OF ALL EVIDENCE BEFORE DRAWING
CONCLUSIONS. REP. GOODLING ADDRESSED THE CHAIRMAN AND
STATED THAT HE DEPLORED THE "LEAKS" TO THE PRESS OF
INFORMATION DISCUSSED IN EXECUTIVE SESSIONS. HE SAID
SUBCOMMITTEE WAS BECOMING A "LAUGHING STOCK" AND ASKED
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 067331

FOR ASSURANCES FROM THE CHAIRMAN THAT LEAKS WOULD NOT
CONTINUE. HE ALSO CALLED ON THE SUBCOMMITTEE TO
DIVORCE POLITICS AND PERSONAL VIEWS FROM THE PROCEEDINGS,
AND GET DOWN TO HOLDING OBJECTIVE HEARINGS.

2. FIRST WITNESS WAS GARI LEDYARD, PROFESSOR OF KOREAN,
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, WHO BEGAN WITH LENGTHY STATEMENT

(TEXT BEING POUCHED) PRESENTING HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, AND DESCRIBING CONDITIONS AND EVENTS WHICH SURROUNDED THE 1971 U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL. WITH REGARD TO THE SUBCOMMITTEE'S INVESTIGATION HE MADE THREE POINTS: A) KOREA DID NOT CREATE AND DOES NOT DOMINATE THE WORLD IN WHICH IT IS FORCED TO OPERATE, AND DID NOT INVENT THE RULES OF LOBBYING; B) AMERICAN LEGISLATORS MIGHT CONSIDER HOW THEY WOULD REACT TO DEMANDS BY A FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMATS TO TESTIFY BEFORE MAKING SUCH DEMANDS; AND C) TO THE EXTENT THAT LOBBYING ACTIVITIES WERE IMPROPER, THEY SHOULD BE CONDEMNED, BUT THE OVERALL INTERESTS OF THE KOREAN PEOPLE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. IN SUBSEQUENT QUESTIONING, LEDYARD ELABORATED ON HIS CONTENTION THAT CIVIL DISTURBANCES AND INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE NORTH KOREAN THREAT HAD STRENGTHENED PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR PRESIDENT PARK, INCLUDING AN INCREASED WILLINGNESS TO "TRADE-OFF" ECONOMIC GAINS FOR SOME RESTRICTION IN POLITICAL FREEDOM.

3. FOLLOWING OPENING STATEMENT (TEXT REPORTED REF B) SECOND WITNESS, AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN, ANSWERED QUESTIONS RELATED TO NIXON DOCTRINE, THE 1971 TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND HIS PERCEPTIONS OF THE ROKG REACTIONS TO THESE DURING HIS TERM AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY. GREEN STATED THAT THE ROKG HAD INITIALLY REACTED STRONGLY TO AMERICAN PLANS TO WITHDRAW TROOPS, BUT DID NOT OBJECT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 067331

TO THE CONCEPTS CONTAINED IN THE NIXON DOCTRINE. HE CITED CONCLUSIONS OF CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETINGS IN 1970 AND 1971 TO SHOW THAT ROKG CONCERNS WERE EASING AND THAT IT PROUD OF TAKING OVER SOLE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MANNING DMZ DEFENSIVE LINE. ON OTHER HAND, ROKG CONCERNS OF CONGRESS APPROVING FUNDS NEEDED FOR FORCE MODERNIZATION. ALSO OUR AMBASSADORS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER CUTS IN ADMINISTRATION AID REQUESTS TO CONGRESS. WHEN ASKED IF HE AGREED WITH LEDYARD THAT US/CHINA OPENING WAS A "SHOCK" TO KOREA, GREEN SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH PARK AND OTHER TOP ROKG OFFICIALS HE GOT IMPRESSION THEY CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD US/CHINA RAPPROCHEMENT WOULD GENERALLY ENHANCE THE SECURITY OF THE ROK AND THAT IT WOULD PROMOTE BETTER CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR ADMINISTRATION'S POLICIES AND PROGRESS IN EAST ASIA, INCLUDING KOREA. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONING ON SPECIFIC REPORTS THE DEPARTMENT HAD RECEIVED ON ROKG LOBBYING IN THE US, GREEN DESCRIBED SOME CONVERSATIONS WITH CONGRESSMEN, AND GENERALLY INDICATED THE DEPARTMENT HAD BRIEFED CONGRESSMEN ON THE SUBJECT.

4. QUESTIONING OF AMBASSADOR WILLIAM PORTER BEGAN WITH

THE BLUE HOUSE RAID AND THE PUEBLO AND EC-121 INCIDENTS. PORTER INDICATED THAT ROK LEADERS WERE DISTURBED BY AMERICAN INACTION IN THESE INCIDENTS, AND THEREFORE SOUGHT ASSURANCES FROM USG THAT TROOP WITHDRAWAL WAS NOT A SYMBOL OF A LACK OF AMERICAN RESOLVE. PORTER CHARACTERIZED ROKG REACTION TO TROOP REDUCTION AS "CONCERN" AND "INTEREST," BUT NOT AS "DEEP ANXIETY" AS REPORTED IN ONE CABLE FROM THAT PERIOD, BECAUSE THE THREAT FROM THE NORTH WAS REAL AND THE ROK'S "RISKS WERE GREATER THAN OURS." HE INDICATED THAT THE ROKG WAS SATISFIED WITH THE ASSISTANCE AND MODERNIZATION PACKAGE OFFERED BY THE USG. WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A REPORT THE USG HAD RECEIVED IN 1970 THAT THE ROK WAS READY TO "PULL OUT ALL STOPS" TO GET MINIMUM WITHDRAWAL AND MAXIMUM COMPENSATION, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 067331

PORTER SAID HE COULD REMEMBER NO RPT NO INSTANCE WHERE THE ROK INDICATED IT WOULD TAKE ITS CASE TO CONGRESS. HE ADDED THAT IF IT HAD BEEN SERIOUS ABOUT TAKING "EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES," THE ROK COULD HAVE WITHDRAWN ITS TROOPS FROM VIETNAM. ON TONGSUN PARK, PORTER RESPONDED THAT HE WAS A YOUNG MAN WITH TOO MUCH MONEY, AND "I ASSUMED" HE HAD OFFICIAL CONNECTIONS BUT HAD NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE. VANCE

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